



**Jean Godden**

Seattle City Councilmember

July 18, 2005

Seattle City Light Advisory Board  
City of Seattle  
PO Box 94745  
Seattle, WA 98124-4745

Dear Seattle City Light Advisory Board Members,

Thank you for your recent briefing on the Advisory Board's proposed recommendations regarding governance of Seattle City Light. I have since spoken with several of my colleagues regarding the issues you raised. While I look forward to your written recommendations, I want to encourage you to put your energy into those issues for which the Advisory Board was created, as specifically called out in the establishing ordinance (Ordinance 121059).

With the short amount of time left in your terms, I want to remind you of the Advisory Board's mission: to advise the Mayor, City Council and Superintendent on policies, business strategies and performance oversight related to, among other things, City Light's finances, power supply, power marketing, and risk management. I realize that the Advisory Board is working hard to complete its work in at least some of these areas. But with City Light facing significant challenges with respect to issues such as Boundary Dam re-licensing, asset management implementation, reducing the risk associated with wholesale energy sales, developing performance benchmarks, and completing the first integrated resource plan in many years there is much more work to be done on these topics. I applaud your efforts to date and await your final recommendations relating to these topics with great anticipation.

The establishing ordinance also sought the technical expertise of the Advisory Board in the areas of environmental protection and energy conservation. These complex issues, which remain Council priorities, involve important long-term strategic and financial considerations for City Light. It is my hope that the Advisory Board will find time to take up these issues and will include them in the final report along with the other topics explicitly identified in Ordinance 121059.

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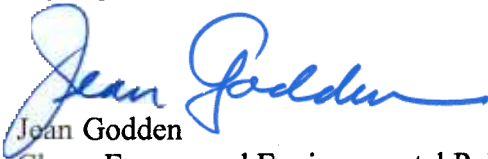
It is crucial to note that nowhere does the establishing ordinance direct or require the Advisory Board to address the issue of governance. Rather the City's intent in creating the Advisory Board was to provide expert, industry-specific knowledge and technical advice on the topics identified above.

I understand that, at the last Advisory Board meeting, you discussed a plan for moving forward on governance issues. This plan, I am told, includes conducting focus groups to solicit residential ratepayers' opinions on these issues. Under Ordinance 121424, the Council (with minor exceptions) oversees the expenditures of funds on opinion-gathering activities to ensure that such funds are spent in a prudent and appropriate manner. As stated above, I believe that Ordinance 121059 did not contemplate the Advisory Board addressing questions of governance. Nor did that ordinance contemplate the Advisory Board engaging in opinion-gathering activities. Given these points, I feel strongly that an expenditure of utility funds on focus groups to solicit opinions on City Light governance would be an unnecessary and unwarranted use of ratepayer dollars.

I have one further area of concern. It is my understanding that you plan on presenting your recommendations and soliciting approval and comments from stakeholder and community groups as part of an effort to advocate for your proposal. I feel it necessary to again remind you that the establishing ordinance specifically prohibits the Advisory Board from participating in such advocacy activities.

While I again want to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of Seattle, it is also my hope that, at the end of your term of service, the Advisory Board will be judged to have successfully met the Council's goals as articulated in the establishing legislation.

My regards,



Joan Godden  
Chair, Energy and Environmental Policy Committee

Cc: Mayor Greg Nickels  
Council President Jan Drago  
Councilmember Jim Compton  
Councilmember David Della  
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen  
Councilmember Richard Conlin  
Superintendent Jorge Carrasco, Seattle City Light  
Alec Fiskén, Office of Policy and Management